



NEWS & UPDATES

City of Franklin Streets Department Saves Energy with LED's on Main Street Retrofit will save time and money

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Franklin— The City of Franklin recently retrofitted 102 existing street lights in Downtown Franklin to light emitting diodes (LEDs), just in time for Main Street Festival. All of the decorative street lights on Main Street from 1st Ave to Five Points were converted from 175 watt metal halides to 45 watt LEDs. The City maintains all of the decorative lights in Downtown and has been testing LEDs for the last two years.

“Right now, we are up on bucket trucks pretty often replacing and servicing these street lights so the LEDs will help us cut back on maintenance and also lower our electric bills” said William Fox Traffic Signalization and Maintenance Electrician for the City.

The City spends approximately \$800,000 annually on street lighting electricity costs, which serves as the City's second largest electricity expense, with the wastewater treatment plant being the highest. Of the roughly 5,500 public street lights in Franklin, the City owns and maintains about 600 of those and is seeking to reduce the operating and ongoing maintenance costs by converting to LEDs.

“We're always looking at ways to reduce costs and energy usage and transitioning to LED street lights is a great way” said Dr. Ken Moore, Mayor of Franklin.

Despite the higher up front cost, the LEDs are approximately 75 percent more energy efficient and will last much longer. The City budgeted and spent \$25,000 to retrofit most of the Downtown lights and will request additional funds in the next fiscal year to convert additional lights to LED. The City estimates a two (2) year return-on-investment (ROI).



To help spur energy efficiency, TVA established the Energy Right Solutions Program to provide a rebate to businesses and organizations that make energy efficiency upgrades. The TVA provided a \$3,060 rebate for this project, which was used to purchase additional lights.

The City began the project on Earth Day and completed it in time for the Main Street Festival.

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